

In the Claims

Claims 15-31 and 33 are pending herein. Please note that all claims currently pending and under consideration in the referenced application are shown below.

1-14. (Canceled)

15. (Previously Presented) Apparatus for releasing a magnetic security device in an article, the apparatus comprising:

- a) a first portion for locating the article in a first direction;
- b) a second portion for locating the article in a second direction substantially perpendicular to the first direction;
- c) wherein the first and second portions define a receptacle configured and adapted to receive the article so as to physically restrain the article in the first and second directions as it is brought into contact with the first and second portions, while leaving the article unrestrained in at least a third direction substantially perpendicular to the first and second directions, the receptacle being configured and adapted to receive first and second surfaces of the article that are wider than the apparatus, such that the article when received in the receptacle may extend beyond the apparatus in the third direction and may extend beyond the apparatus in a fourth direction opposite the third direction; and
- d) at least one of the first and second portions including magnetic release means arranged to assist in locating the article, when the article is initially misaligned, into alignment in the third direction by magnetic attraction of the security device as the article is brought into contact with the at least one of the first and second portions, the magnetic release means being arranged to provide a first magnetic force in the first direction and a second magnetic force in the second direction for releasing the magnetic security device from the article.

16. (Previously Presented) Apparatus for releasing a magnetic security device in an article, the apparatus comprising:
 - a) a first portion for locating the article in a first direction;
 - b) a second portion for locating the article in a second direction substantially perpendicular to the first direction;
 - c) wherein the first and second portions define an L-shaped receptacle configured and adapted to restrain the article in the first and second directions as it is brought into contact with the first and second portions, while leaving the article unrestrained in at least a third direction substantially perpendicular to the first and second directions, the L-shaped receptacle being capable of receiving articles of a wide range of shapes and sizes having a security device installed adjacent two substantially perpendicular sides thereof, the receptacle being configured and adapted to receive the article having first and second surfaces that are wider in the third direction than the apparatus; and
 - d) at least one of the first and second portions including magnetic release means arranged to provide a first magnetic force in the first direction and a second magnetic force in the second direction for releasing the magnetic security device from the article, wherein the receptacle is adapted and configured to receive the article such that the size of the surfaces of the article within the receptacle are unrestricted in at least the third direction and a fourth direction opposite the third direction.
17. (Previously Presented) Apparatus as claimed in claim 15 in which the first portion defines a first plane and the second portion defines a second plane substantially perpendicular to the first plane.
18. (Previously Presented) Apparatus as claimed in claim 17 in which the first and second planes define a receptacle having a substantially L-shaped cross-section.

19. (Previously Presented) Apparatus as claimed in claim 15 in which the first and second portions respectively comprise a base portion and a top portion upstanding therefrom.
20. (Previously Presented) Apparatus as claimed in claim 19 in which the first and second portions are connected together by means of at least one mutually engageable projection and recess.
21. (Previously Presented) Apparatus as claimed in claim 15 in which a first magnet mounted in the first portion provides the magnetic force in the first direction and a second magnet mounted in the second portion provides the magnetic force in the second direction.
22. (Previously Presented) Apparatus as claimed in claim 21 in which at least one of the first and second magnet comprises a plurality of parts which are held together in a configuration in which they tend to repel each other.
23. (Previously Presented) Apparatus as claimed in claim 22 in which at least one of the first and second magnets comprise a central part with a plurality of further parts adjacent thereto, the magnetic axes of each of the further parts being perpendicular to that of the central part.
24. (Previously Presented) Apparatus as claimed in claim 15 having closure means moveable between an open position which provides access to the magnetic release means and a closed position which prevents an article being presented to the magnetic release means.
25. (Previously Presented) Apparatus as claimed in claim 24 in which the closure means comprises a slideable or pivotable cover.
26. (Previously Presented) Apparatus as claimed in claim 24 having locking means for locking the closure means in the closed position.
27. (Previously Presented) Apparatus as claimed in claim 16 in which at least one of the first and second portions are arranged to assist in locating the article in a third direction

substantially perpendicular to the first and second directions by magnetic attraction of the security device as the article is brought into contact with the first and second portions so as to align the magnetic security device with the magnetic release means.

28. (Previously Presented) A method of releasing a magnetic security device comprising the steps of providing an apparatus as claimed in claim 15 and presenting the article with the magnetic security device thereto to release the magnetic security device therefrom.
29. (Previously Presented) An apparatus for releasing a magnetic security device, the apparatus comprising:
 - a) a first portion for locating an article in a first direction and a second portion for locating an article in a second direction substantially perpendicular to the first direction, the first and second portions forming a receptacle for receiving the article but physically restraining the article in the first and second directions as it is brought into contact with the first and second portions;
 - b) at least one of the first and second portions including magnetic release means arranged to assist in locating the article in a third direction substantially perpendicular to the first and second directions by magnetic attraction of the security device as the article is brought into contact with the at least one of the first and second portions so as to align the magnetic security device with the magnetic release means, the magnetic release means being arranged to provide a first magnetic force in the first direction and a second magnetic force in the second direction for releasing a magnetic security device from the article; and
 - c) closure means moveable between an open position which provides access to the magnetic release means and a closed position which prevents an article being presented to the magnetic release means.
30. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 29 in which the closure means

comprises a slideable or pivotable cover.

31. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 29 having locking means for locking the closure means in the closed position.

32. (Canceled)

33. (Previously Presented) An apparatus for releasing a magnetic security device in an article, the apparatus comprising:

- a) a first portion for locating the article in a first direction and second portion for locating the article in a second direction substantially perpendicular to the first direction, the first and second portions defining a receptacle configured and adapted to receive first and second surfaces of the article such that the first and second surfaces of the article when received in the receptacle may extend beyond the apparatus in a third direction that is substantially perpendicular to the first and second directions, and may extend beyond the apparatus in a fourth direction opposite the third direction; and
- b) magnetic release means associated with the receptacle for releasing the magnetic security device in the article.